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why now?

McGovern Assails Article

Reuter

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) is quoted as saying he almost moved to England after his defeat by President Nixon in the 1972 presidential election.

In an article in The New York Times Magazine, author Joe McGinniss said the senator told him he was "very, very tempted" to make the move.

"And my wife really wanted to go. To get away from all of it. To leave it all behind forever . . . we came awfully close to going."

McGovern said in a statement the article was "full of inaccurate and fabricated quotations" and described it as "a disreputable and shoddy piece of journalism."

McGinniss, who wrote "The Selling of the President, 1968," said he stood by his article.

According to McGinniss, McGovern said he decided against going to England because he thought he would later feel guilty about "having run away and left behind those two million people who'd worked for me."

McGinniss quoted McGovern as saying he never liked Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.) his vice presidential running mate who was forced off the ticket following disclosure that he had undergone treatment for nervous exhaustion.

According to McGinniss, McGovern said of Eagleton's failure to disclose his medical history: "It's incredible. I still can't understand how Eagleton could have done it. He knew how damaging that kind of thing would be politically . . .

"He never would show me the medical reports. What a runaround he gave us on that . . . to think that this guy who hadn't even campaigned for me, who had worked as hard as he could for Sen. Muskie . . . that he was willing to sacrifice my campaign . . . ."

The article jquoted McGovern as saying his instinct had been to pick Sen. Frank Church of Idaho as his running mate but he went against his instinct following objections from his advisors.

McGovern said in his statement that he was particularly offended by the fact that the article defamed his former running mate.

Eagleton said in a statement that he had talked with McGovern about the article and "of course I believe George."